ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Medium-duty ——— Light-duty
Unimproved dirt - - - - -
Trails - - - - - - -

Scale of Miles 0 1 2

CAMPGROUND

To Death Valley Via Scotty's Castle

Map Courtesy of Dept. of Water & Power City of Los Angeles

TOWN OF BIG PINE

WEST POPLAR AVENUE EAST POPLAR AVE
NORTH SCHOOL STREET
MAIN STREET
CENTER STREET
LOCUST STREET
PINE ST
WASHINGTON ST
HOME STREET
GLACIER LODGE ROAD
WEST CROCKER AVENUE EAST CROCKER AVE
FLOWER ALLEY
CORNELL STREET
DEWEY STREET
CHESTNUT STREET
Highway 395
WALNUT STREET
PINON STREET
SOUTH SCHOOL STREET
SOUTH MAIN STREET
BARTEL STREET
COUNTY ROAD

RENO TO WHITE NEVADA
BRISTLECONE PINE AREA
OASIS
BISHOP
INYO NATIONAL FOREST
BIG PINE
MTS
SCOTTY'S CASTLE
INDEPENDENCE
DEATH VALLEY
395
LONE PINE
SEQUOIA NAT'L PARK
TO LOS ANGELES

BIG PINE - INDEPENDENCE

BIG PINE — INDEPENDENCE REGION

The Sierra communities of Big Pine, elevation 4002 ft., and Independence, elevation 3925 ft., stand astride Highway 6 - 395, the main north-south highway that extends from San Bernardino to Bishop, in the trough of the rugged and beautiful Owens Valley. To the west of Highway 6 - 395 rise the towering pinnacles of the mighty High Sierras topped by majestic Mt. Whitney with an elevation of 14,495. This mighty snow capped shaft is visable from Independence, as are many lesser but equally imposing peaks. To to east flows the Owens River, coursing south to irrigate the lower mouth of the Owens Valley, and the huge pipeline syphon that is the Los Angeles Aqueduct. In the distance the peaks of the desolate and barren Inyo Range stand close to Death Valley and the sprawling Panamint Range.

For the hunter, fisherman and the seeker of the beautiful, wild and undisturbed Sierra country the Big-Pine-Independence area has scarely an equal. For those who are interested in the rugged history of the Old West there is much to see in the Courthouse and Museum at Independence and in the old Fort Independence area located a few miles off the main highway a few miles north of the present day city of Independence. The city is now county seat for Inyo County, and has good motels, restaurants, service stations and all facilities.

Although the area around Independence was under control of local Indians in 1862 and all whites had either been driven out or killed, it was soon brought under control by an expedition of U.S. Army Cavalry that formed the "Mono and Owens River Military Expedition" and was composed of 150 men. It was on the Fourth of July, 1862, that this calvary group established Camp Independence to protect the settlers who were coming into this virgin land. Even today, much of the wild areas are the same, untouched, as they where when the valley and foothills were the private preserve of the Indians.

The Big Pine-Independence area is the very heart of Owens Valley; a flat expanse of meadows and glacier fed streams that are stocked with good size trout and providing good fishing in the early part of the season. Close by Independence is the Independence Creek that can be fished westward to Gray's Meadow and Onion Valley. A passable road follows the creek and makes it easy to get to one of the best starting points for a variety of trips into the Sierra back country. There are two pack stations in Onion Valley for parties going to Kearsarge, Shepard, Sawmill or Taboose Passes. On Oak Creek, a few miles north of Independence on Highway 395, is another pack station and Mt. Whitney Hatchery.

In the region north of Onion Valley are numerous back-country lakes with excellent fishing and unusual mountain scenery. A portion of this rugged area has been made into the King's Canyon National Park. The famous north-south John Muir Trail connects the trans-Sierra trails, which makes it easy to reach any of a large number of lakes and streams.

Nearly midway between Independence and Big Pine is Aberdeen with the Aberdeen Resort and then further to the north will be seen Poverty Hills on the west of 395 and Tinnemaha Reservoir on the east. The reservoir is an important part of the Los Angeles water system.

Big Pine is a moderate sized community with good motels, restaurants and stores for provisions and supplies. It is also the starting point for many interesting side trips such as the Bristlecone Pine trip, the most direct route to Death Valley, via Scotty's Castle, and the famed Palisade Glacier, southernmost glacier in the United States. The radio telescope installed and operated by the California Institute of Technology is also located here.

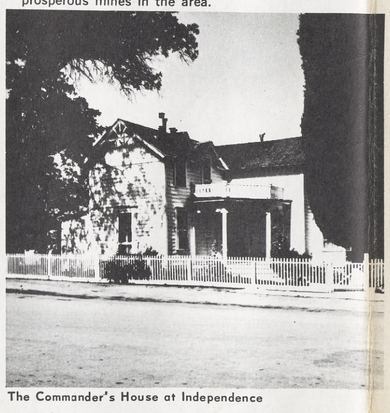
Independence retain the charm and flavor of the Old West, with fine old courthouse, one of the most beautiful in California. The old Independence Hotel, the Mary Austin home, and many others that local residents will point out to you.

Of special interest is the stately old Commander's House, used when were in the Inyo Valley in the eighteen-nineties. This historic house is open to the public, as it has been acquired by the County of Inyo.

In the basement of the Courthouse is a fascinating museum, filled with momentoes of the Owens Valley's past. Gold scales, samples of gold ore, the Little Miners shoes and pick, an early handpress with a sample of the newspaper that it printed. There are firearms, old cooking utensils, autograph albums, invitations and even Valentines.

Among the most interesting objects in the Museum is the display of Indian beadwork, necklaces which tell the story of the maker's life. Indian baskets beautifully designed, also tell stories of these people. The basket making is a lost art, and these samples of these artifacts are highly treasured by the Eastern California Museum.

West of Independence, on the road which leads to Onion Valley is the ruins of the old Kearsarge Mill. This mill was built to handle the production from the many prosperous mines in the area.



The Commander's House at Independence

Big Pine Creek is one of the finest big fishing streams in all of the Sierra country. Fed by the cold waters of the Palisade Glacier that flow into a series of seven magnificent lakes and then form the waters of the creek itself, Big Pine Creek has miles of swift running water and beautiful deep pools that are liberally stocked by the Dept. of Fish and Game. Much of Big Pine Creek can be reached by paved road that goes from 395 to the foot of Palisade Glacier. Glacier Lodge and the glacier pack train are reached by driving west along the Big Pine Creek Road.

THE ANCIENT BRISTLECONE PINES

No visitor to the Big Pine-Independence area, whether he be fisherman, hunter or tourist should deprive himself of the opportunity to see and enjoy gazing upon the oldest living things on earth. East of Big Pine, over Westgard Pass the first stop is Toll House Spring, the only water source on this road to the Bristlecone Pine area. The old Toll House still stands, eight miles east of Big Pine. The original rate sign that specified the charges for riders, wagons, livestock and foot travelers hangs in the Eastern California Museum at Independence.

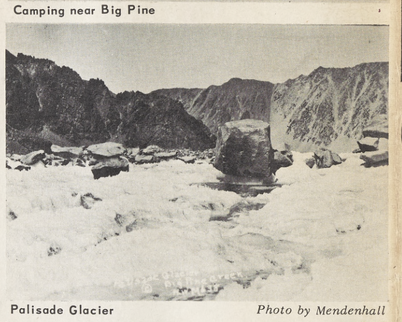
Five miles from Toll House Spring at the summit of Westgard Pass the U.S. Forest Service has erected a direction sign pointing to the Ancient Bristlecone Pines. It must be mentioned that the official name for this area is the Edmund Schulman Memorial Grove of Bristlecone Pines. Dr. Schulman who was associated with the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, University of Arizona, discovered, and cataloged, much scientific data that will be of great value to the study of climate, water resources, soil erosion, tree longevity and radiocarbon dating.

Bristlecone Pines, northeast of Big Pine.

From the direction sign, it is three miles to the fossil area. Here the traveler may take a sample for himself, to be made into a tie clasp or cuff links. These fossils are in limestone and take a beautiful polish. No commercial collections is allowed, only the traveler enjoying the privilege of taking a sample as a reminder of his visit.

The next stop is the Grand View Campground, and if you have heeded the advice, you have brought your own water, and wood for fire. A picnic lunch and the opportunity to enjoy the view as described by the campgrounds name is in order at this point. Further on and the last point before reaching the Bristlecone Pines is the parking area called Sierra View. This overlooks Owens Valley, the glacier-carved peaks of the Sierra on the western skyline and Deep Springs Valley to the southeast.

Camping near Big Pine



Palisade Glacier *Photo by Mendenhall*

Old narrow gauge steam engine at Dehy Park in Independence. Shaded picnic tables on Big Pine Creek located here.

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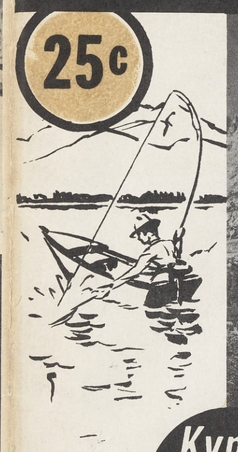
At Edmund Schulman Memorial Grove of Bristlecone Pines are picnic grounds, exhibits, the trail to Pine Alpha, known to be more than 4000 years old and a wonderland for the photographer. Remember to bring your camera, for the scenic beauty can best be described on film. These are pictures worth having, and in the Bristlecone Pine area are opportunities unlimited.

INYO COUNTY CAMP AND PICNIC GROUNDS
Big Pine and Independence Area

INDEPENDENCE — County Seat of Inyo County — Campground is ½ mile west of town on:
INDEPENDENCE CREEK, 45 spaces with additional 30 spaces being added on across the creek. Restrooms, surface water, tables, trees.
DEHY PARK, north end of town, on west side of hiway, easily identified by narrow gauge steam engine, all modern rest stop facilities. No camping.
OLD FORT AREA — two miles north of Independence, turn east at historical marker, denoting site of:
CAMP INDEPENDENCE. Plans are for future historical signing and markings.
SAWMILL CREEK CAMPGROUND — Located on west side of hiway, 9½ miles north of Independence. Combination rest stop and campground, 60 spaces, restrooms, surface water, tables, shade.
GOODALE CREEK CAMPGROUND — B.L.M. built, maintenance by Inyo County, 13 miles north of Independence, one block north of Aberdeen Resort turn off hiway west 1¼ miles. 62 spaces, all modern campground, close to supplies and modern facilities.
TABOOSE CREEK CAMPGROUND — Located 12.2 miles south of Big Pine. Inyo County marker west side of hiway. Approximately ¾ miles to camp, room for 120 spaces, restrooms, pits, tables, surface water, shade.
TINNEMAHA CREEK CAMPGROUND — Located 7.3 miles south of Big Pine. Inyo County marker west side of hiway. Follow signs 2½ miles to camp, which will accommodate 100 campers. Shade, surface water, fire pits, restrooms.
BIG PINE — County Park located west side of hiway, modern rest stop, water, tables, restrooms. No camping. Close to shopping facilities and supplies.
CAMP INYO — Turn west on Glacier Lodge Road in Big Pine approximately 2 miles, follow signs. This is a part of Inyo County Park and Recreation Department, under the schedule reservation of the County Superintendent of Schools. Its 98 acres of buildings and grounds are oriented for the study of science and conservation, and it is open to schools in and out of the county, Boy and Girl Scouts, and similar groups. Dining facilities, dormitories, and convenient showers can accommodate groups of different ages. Nature trails, science labs, amphitheater, infirmary, trout pond, and The Old Swimming Hole are a part of the development. For information, and an application, write to Inyo County Superintendent of Schools, Box 128, Independence, California 93526. Phone: Area Code 714-878-2411. Ext. 338.

GLACIER PACK TRAIN, Big Pine, Calif. Spot pack and extended trips over Taboose Pass into King's River country. Also Baker, McMurray and Big Pine Lakes near Palisade Glacier, largest, most southerly glacier in the United States.

MAP OF THE
HIGH SIERRA
BIG PINE
INDEPENDENCE



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• FISHING
• HUNTING
• HIKING
• CAMPING
• TRAILER PARKS
• RESORTS

Kym's GUIDE No.17

MAPS and CHARTS of Recreation Areas

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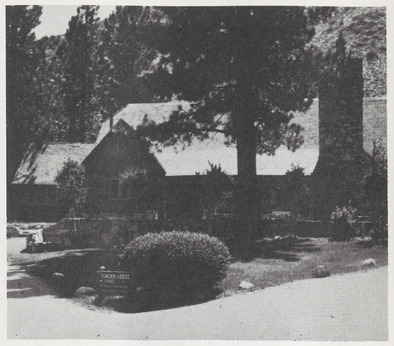
SEQUOIA-KINGS HIGH SIERRA PACK TRAINS, Gene Burkhart, Box 176, Independence, Calif. Eastern entrance to Sequoia and King's Canyon National Parks to excellent lake and stream fishing and spectacular high country scenery over four major passes — Kearsarge, Sawmill, Shepherds, Taboose. Choice areas — Rae, Bullfrog, East and Baxter Lakes, Vidette Meadows, Gardiner Basin and many more. Headquarters at Onion Valley. Phone TRipoli 8-2811.



GLACIER LODGE

GLACIER LODGE, P.O. Box 327, Big Pine, California 93513. Phone 714-938-2500 Big Pine, Calif. Hugh and Pat Lantz, owners. At Big Pine, turn west off Highway 395, on paved road for 11 miles. Glacier Pack Train is located on this road, also. This well-known High Sierra resort is the nearest to the famed Palisade Glacier. Located near the headwaters of the north fork of Big Pine Creek in Inyo National Forest, with 17 lakes in the surrounding area, it offers everything for the fishermen, the hunter, the hiker, and the photographer.

This is an ideal family resort, with playgrounds for the children, a fishing pond, horseback riding, picnicking, an ideal spot to relax among tall pine trees, and green alpine meadows. Glacier Lodge offers every facility for a complete vacation in the High Sierra.

The Lodge has a main lounge, a well-stocked store, dining room, with excellent meals, hotel rooms, and housekeeping cabins fully-equipped with bedding, linen, etc., gas or wood stoves (as you prefer.) Write or phone for reservations.

Summit Lake, Big Pine *Photo by Mendenhall*

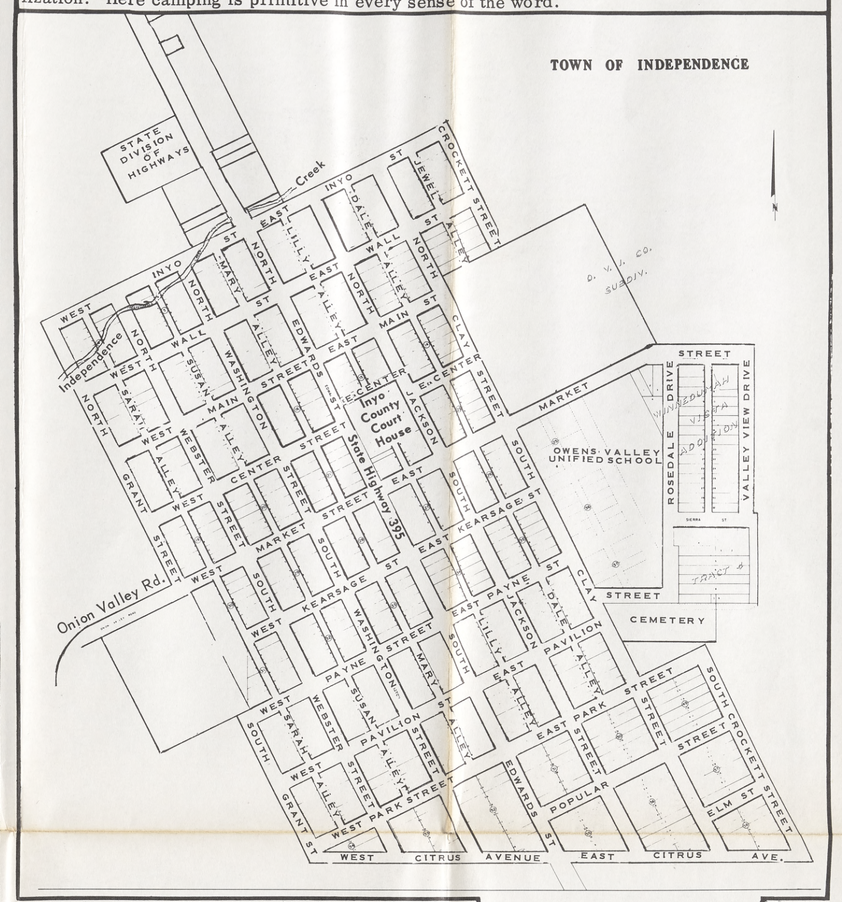
BIG PINE CREEK RESORT AND BIG PINE CREEK TRAILER RENTALS, P.O. Box 236, Big Pine, California. Eight miles west of Big Pine on Big Pine Creek Road. 7000 feet elevation. Phone Big Pine WE 8-2226 or WE 8-2335. Richard T. Hinds, owner. New, modern cinder block cottages with fully equipped kitchens. Reasonable rates. Excellent stream fishing, horseback riding, hunting, swimming pool. For winter guests, Snow Weasal available for Snow Parties and Ski groups. Bunny slopes, ½ mile and 4 mile ski runs.

In addition to their additional resort facilities, Big Pine Trailer Rentals offers a special low cost vacation in their trailer or yours. Their trailer park has water, power, toilets, showers, bath, swimming pool, launderette, barbecue facilities, and fishing in a private stream.

Those who wish to camp in the free U.S. Forestry campgrounds may rent a new or used trailer at a reasonable rate. Write or phone for reservations or brochures.

Big Pine Creek Resort

Be certain you are prepared for "roughing it" and outdoor living before starting on a pack trip into the back country. Check your gear for sturdy shoes, warm clothing for high country, and know your way. Only those in good health should enter back country or wilderness area. A trip into the true wilderness is, to many, the height of a forest vacation. Those high country mountainous lands are intended for hikers and horseback riders who relish a journey away from civilization. Here camping is primitive in every sense of the word.



Map Courtesy of Dept. Of Water & Power
City of Los Angeles

INYO NATIONAL FOREST CAMPGROUNDS
Big Pine - Independence Area

BIG PINE CREEK RECREATION AREA

Located directly west of Big Pine where you can find shopping facilities, motels, churches, and phone service. A highly scenic and deep canyon which is the gateway to the Palisade Glacier (southernmost in the U.S.) A resort and pack station are located in the area. Administered by the District Ranger, Bishop, California.

SAGE FLAT, located 8 miles west of Big Pine on good paved road. In canyon along creek with Jeffrey Pine cover. 31 camps. Stream water, fishing, hunting, hiking. Supplies at Glacier Lodge nearby. Elevation 7500 feet. Season — May to October.

BIG PINE CREEK, located 10 miles west of Big Pine on good paved road. In canyon along creek with Jeffrey Pine Cover. 31 camps. Stream water, fishing, hunting, hiking. Supplies at Glacier Lodge nearby. Elevation 7500 feet. Season — May to October.

GRAYS MEADOW, located 5½ miles west of Independence on good paved road in the Sierra Foothills along Independence Creek. 59 camp units. Piped water. Fishing, hiking, hunting. Elevation 6000 feet. Season — April to November. Newly reconstructed to modern standards. Fees are charged at this campground.

ONION VALLEY, located 14 miles west of Independence at terminus of newly constructed paved road. Highly scenic hanging valley with excellent fall color. 30 camp units with stoves. Piped water. Supplies at Independence. Fishing, hiking, hunting. Pack station adjacent. Elevation 9000 feet. Season — May to October. Recently reconstructed to modern standards. No trailers permitted. Fees are charged at this campground.

OAK CREEK RECREATION AREA

Located directly west of old Fort Independence. Supplies and facilities available in Independence. A lightly developed area along the north fork of Oak Creek. Gateway to John Muir Wilderness and Baxter Pass. Administered by the District Ranger, Lone Pine, California.

LOWER OAK CREEK, located 2 miles west of Fort Independence (which is 2 miles north of Independence) on paved road. In the foothills. 6 units. Stream water. Fishing. Elevation 4500 feet. Season — year long.

OAK CREEK, located 4 miles west of Fort Independence on north fork of Oak Creek. In the foothills. 6 camps. Stream water. Fishing. Elevation 5000 feet. Season — May to October.

UPPER OAK CREEK, located 6 miles west of Fort Independence on north fork of Oak Creek at terminus of newly constructed road. Unimproved. Stream water. Fishing, hiking. Elevation 6000 feet. Season — May to October.

FOREST OF THE ANCIENT BRISTLECONE PINES AREA
This area administered by the District Ranger, Bishop, California.

GRANDVIEW, on the White Mountain Road 5 miles north of Westgard Pass and 2 miles south of the Forest of the Ancient Bristlecone Pines. 6 camp units. No water. Elevation 8600 feet. Season — June to September.

SCHULMAN MEMORIAL GROVE PICNIC GROUND, located in the area of the oldest trees and named after the discoverer of them, Dr. Edmund Schulman. 6 picnic units. No water. Elevation 10,000 feet. Season — June to September.

PATRIARCH PICNIC GROUND, located 12 miles north of Schulman Grove on rough gravel high altitude road. The largest known bristlecone pine, the Patriarch, is nearby. 5 picnic units. No water. Elevation 11,500 feet. Season — July to September.

FIRST FALLS, on Big Pine Creek, 1 mile west of Glacier Lodge on narrow graded road. Gateway to Palisade Glacier Trail. Located in small hanging valley among pine and birch. 15 camps. Stream water. Supplies at Glacier Lodge. Palisade Glacier (southernmost in the U.S.) 12 miles west by trail. Elevation 8500 feet. Fishing, hunting, hiking. Season — May to October.

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